

CLAIMS

1. A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions configured for:

receiving a request for information regarding a media object;
inferring the information from repeat instances of media objects occurring within one or more media streams; and
returning the information.

2. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the inferring comprises searching a database for the information, the database including media objects and records of repeat instances of the media objects.

3. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the inferring comprises:

monitoring the one or more media streams;
identifying the repeat instances; and
storing records of the repeat instances in a database.

4. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the inferring comprises comparing temporal lengths of repeat instances of the media object with one another to determine different versions of the media object, the different versions of the media object selected from the group comprising:

a longest version of the media object;
a number of longer versions of the media object;

a shortest version of the media object; and
a number of shorter versions of the media object.

5. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the inferring comprises determining a most-related media object, the most-related media object being temporally adjacent to the media object with a greater frequency of repeat instances than any other media object.

6. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the inferring comprises determining a number of related media objects, the related media objects occurring within a close temporal proximity of the media object with a higher frequency of repeat instances relative to one another.

7. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the inferring comprises matching a key word from the request with metadata extracted from a media object.

8. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the inferring comprises matching date and time information from the request with date and time information of a media object stored in a database.

9. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the inferring comprises limiting returned media objects based on constraints contained within the request.

10. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the inferring comprises identifying temporal endpoints of each repeat instance of the media object.

11. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 10, wherein the identifying is based on an identifier included in the request, the identifier selected from the group comprising:

a fingerprint of the media object; and

a time stamp and channel code associated with the media object.

12. A server computer comprising the processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1.

13. A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions configured for:

receiving user input regarding a media object;

sending a request for an additional media object based on the user input;

receiving the additional media object; and

rendering the additional media object.

14. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 13, wherein the request for information specifies information items selected from the group comprising:

a current media station delivering the media object;

an identifier of the media object;

a command to retrieve a number of media objects that each include a portion of the media object;

a command to retrieve a longest media object that includes a portion of the media object;

a command to retrieve a number of related media objects;

a command to retrieve a number of most popular media objects;

a command to search across like media stations; and

a command to search across all media stations.

15. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 13, comprising further processor-executable instructions configured for rendering a media stream that includes the media object. .

16. A client computer comprising the processor-readable medium as recited in claim 13.

17. A system comprising:

a media application configured to render a media stream; and

a user interface module configured to enable a user to enter a request for additional media objects related to a media object from the media stream.

18. A system as recited in claim 17, further comprising an object identification module configured to identify the media object within the request.

19. A system as recited in claim 18, further comprising an inference module configured to monitor the media stream and recognize repeat instances of media objects from the media stream.

20. A system as recited in claim 19, further comprising a database configured to store media objects and information about the repeat instances, the inference module further configured to receive the request for additional media objects and to determine the additional media objects based on the repeat instances.